

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة منشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة العربية "الرأي"

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said Monday Iran and Israel were bound by a strategic alliance against the Arab Nation. Mr. Ramadan, inaugurating a conference of Arab justice ministers in Baghdad, said Iran and Israel were bound by "a strategic alliance backed by the imperialists to achieve their joint aims against the Arab Nation."

Iraq calls for end to Gulf war, page 2

Egypt deplores Salvador move

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali Monday described as "unfriendly" El Salvador's decision to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and said it violated United Nations resolutions. Mr. Ali told reporters he would convey this view to El Salvador's Ambassador to Egypt at a meeting at the Foreign Ministry Tuesday. El Salvador moved its embassy to Jerusalem last week. "This action is unfriendly and violates U.N. resolutions since Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in the 1967 war," Mr. Ali said. He added that the Jerusalem issue was one of the basic points of dispute between Israel and Egypt, which signed a U.S.-sponsored treaty in 1979. Egypt recently urged Washington to resist congressional pressure to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

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Lanc ends Saudi visit

BAHRAIN (R) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc left Saudi Arabia Monday after a three-day visit for talks on the Middle East and relations between his country and the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency said. His destination was not disclosed. Mr. Lanc, who is touring five Gulf Arab countries, has already visited Qatar and is due to go on to Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Nigerian panel to try Shagari

LAGOS (R) — Ousted Nigerian President Shibu Shagari will be tried before a military tribunal, the chairman of the main panel was quoted Monday as saying. The National Concord newspaper said it was told in an interview by Brigadier Paul Omu, head of the main tribunal, that all top politicians would be tried, including the former president and his vice-president, Alex Ekwueme.

Cairo resumes mass trial

CAIRO (R) — A state court Monday resumed hearings in a mass trial of 176 alleged members of the outlawed extremist Al Jihad (struggle) organisation. The state prosecution said the defendants, on trial since the assassination of the late President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, faced charges of plotting armed revolution and belonging to an outlawed paramilitary extremist group. It added it had evidence that the accused had been trained to use arms to carry out assassination attempts against several Egyptian ministers.

Britain jails MIS agent

LONDON (AP) — British intelligence officer Michael John Bettaney, who three times offered to spy for the Soviet Union, was convicted Monday on 10 charges under Britain's anti-espionage Official Secrets Act and sentenced to 13 years in prison. Mr. Bettaney, 34, a middle-ranking officer in Britain's MI5 counter-espionage service, showed no emotion as the 12-member jury, after five hours of deliberation, announced its verdict at the end of the mainly secret trial at the Old Bailey Central criminal court.

U.S. plans new chemical proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, saying he hopes to "eliminate forever the threat of chemical warfare," dispatched his vice-president to Geneva, Switzerland, Monday to present a new U.S. proposal for banning the development, production, possession or use of chemical weapons. "Our goal is to eliminate from this earth one of the most horrible and terrifying weapons known to mankind," Mr. Reagan said after meeting with Vice President George Bush and senior foreign policy advisers at the White House. "I'll sure try," Mr. Bush said.

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Hussein urges businessmen to co-ordinate efforts 'Joint Arab economic strategy most essential to face threats'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called on Arab businessmen and industrialists to co-ordinate efforts and form a joint strategy capable of utilising all available resources in the Arab World, protecting Arab wealth and confronting economic challenges facing the Arab Nation.

King Hussein, opening the 28th session of the Conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture at the Palace of Culture, emphasised Jordan's belief in the "inevitability of Arab economic integration within the framework of an Arab strategy" to foil the "serious and vital challenges" facing the Arabs.

The King said one look at the contemporary Arab World "reveals the depth of the serious and vital challenges facing the Arab Nation" and wished the conference success in its efforts to "erase the stigma of economic backwardness and subjugation."

He pointed out the threats facing the Arab Nation in the political, military economic and cultural fields and stressed that these challenges also threaten world peace.

The King called on Arab countries and businessmen to direct more of their capital into Arab-based projects and to work towards developing an Arab economy and creating proper means of investment for surplus Arab funds.

operation between the public and private sectors in an atmosphere of security and stability and a free economy which preserves private enterprise and supports individual initiatives in the framework of a clear-cut economic policy."

King Hussein said that through its long-standing principles, Jordan has been able to rise and overcome many obstacles and to deepen the confidence of the Jordanian citizen in himself and his country.

President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Hamdi Tabba' also addressed the conference and said Jordan, under the directions of King Hussein, has always supported Arab unity and joint Arab economic ventures "which conform to the message of this conference where the General Federation of Arab Chambers started working for strengthening Arab economic co-operation nearly 30 years ago."

"The role played by the public sector in the social and economic development in all Arab states is a major, indispensable role in view of the great burdens of development on the one hand and the capabilities of this sector on the other hand," Mr. Tabba' said. However, there is a growing awareness of the importance and capabilities of the private sector on both the regional and national arenas, he added.

"In view of the scarcity of available resources in Jordan, and in

order to maintain high standards of development, Jordan hopes to attract Arab capital to increase investment opportunities," he said.

Mr. Tabba' urged Arab economists to overcome all disputes and avoid measures that can hamper trade exchange, movement of goods and individuals and to respect agreements in text and spirit.

He also called on the economists to seek the achievement of targets and interests "in order to build an economic structure that can participate in defending the higher Arab interests and that can last through attacks of aggressive forces aiming at breaking it up and dividing it."

The chairman of the last session of the conference, Badreddin Shillah, told Monday's meeting that "the dangers threatening the Arab economy subject as and the Third World as a whole to a further need of food." This situation, Mr. Shillah said, would make the Arab World more dependent on foreign supplies of food — "a dependence that is more threatening than confiscation or freezing of Arab finances abroad."

Mr. Shillah added that the conference has been able to achieve many of its targets in finding Arab companies that could meet the deficit in Arab economy as a whole.

The conference has also contributed to bringing closer views

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Four-party alliance programme aims at 'thwarting attempts to split PLO'

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A four-faction Palestinian alliance has announced a "national salvation programme" aimed at "thwarting attempts to split the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)" and called on "all patriotic Palestinian personalities and institutions" to adopt it.

Bassam Abu Sharif, official spokesman for the Damascus-based Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the eight factions under the PLO umbrella, told the Jordan Times in a phone interview: "The national salvation programme aims at maintaining the unity of the PLO and preventing the organisation from endorsing schemes that are contradictory and even

dangerous to our nationalist goals."

"We call on all the Palestinian personalities and institutions to endorse the national salvation programme," he said.

The "national salvation programme," formulated by the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party, calls for the formation of "a broad Palestinian nationalist front" within the PLO to "confront capitulatory plans and undermining its legitimacy as the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abu Sharif, however, explained that the suggested front is not a "substitute to the PLO leadership" and "does not aim at forming a parallel organisation to the PLO."

"On the contrary, the front is meant to be a buffer to foil attempts to establish a substitute organisation for the PLO," he said.

The suggested front would be "actually a coalition that includes all Palestinian forces to maintain the revolutionary line of the PLO," he said.

The five-page programme states that "after the departure of PLO forces from Beirut in 1982, the PLO has been a target to schemes which aimed at dragging it into capitulatory plans and undermining its legitimacy as the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

"The only way to counter these schemes," Mr. Abu Sharif said, "is to restore the PLO's unity, to effect a practical commitment by all

Palestinian forces to PLO resolutions and goals, and to escalate the armed struggle against the enemy."

Reconciliation talks planned

The PFLP official's statement came amid reports of progress in preparations for a reconciliation meeting between Fateh, the mainstream commando group and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat power base, within the organisation, and the four-faction alliance.

The reconciliation meeting, expected to be held in Algiers next Wednesday and sponsored by Algiers and South Yemen, is expected to discuss ways to resolve

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Assad, Jalloud discuss Lebanon

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Monday with Abdul Salam Jalloud, the second-in-command to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. "The talks were about the situation in the Middle East and in Lebanon, in light of the American-Israeli moves hostile to the Arab Nation," according to the Syrian news agency, SANA.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who had met Major Jalloud delegation earlier, was present at the talks, it added.

Mr. Assad and Maj. Jalloud also discussed relations between their countries, both Arab radicals who support Iran against Iraq in the Gulf war.

Earlier, Lebanese opposition leader Walid Junblatt met Mr. Khaddam to outline the opposition's basis for a settlement in Lebanon.

Explosions close Beirut crossing as militia fighting flares in Tripoli

BEIRUT (R) — Explosions closed the only passage between east and west Beirut Monday, while in the northern port of Tripoli renewed fighting between rival militias killed two people and wounded 10 others, police said.

Shells landing on the eastern end of the 600-metre crossing closed it early Monday morning, police said, and "intensive contacts" to re-open were under way.

The link was closed for similar reasons for two hours on Wednesday.

In Tripoli, fighting involving a full range of weapons broke out again Monday morning between two rival militias, killing at least two people and wounding 10 others, police said.

Sunday night, police said the groups fought a battle which killed seven and wounded 35 people.

The clashes were touched off Sunday when a gunman opened fire on a car occupied by members of the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party (ADP), wounding an officer in the ADP militia, the "Arab Knights."

The ADP fought Tripoli's dominant militia, the Sunni Muslim fundamentalist Tawheed (Islamic Unification Movement), into the early hours of Monday morning. Shops and schools in the bustling city closed down in mid-morning when the clashes broke

out again. Tripoli's "higher co-ordination committee" met during both battles under the city's leading politician, former Premier Rasheed Karami, to try to stop the fighting.

In Beirut another group, a security committee grouping representatives of the main anti-agonists in fighting in and around the capital, met to try to re-open the Beirut crossing, official sources said.

Disengagement plan

The committee also discussed a disengagement of forces, which the various sides have agreed on, but have not implemented.

The militias and the army were to pull back from a confrontation line that divides the city and extends through its southern suburbs to the mountains to the south-east.

The official sources said the committee were trying to overcome technical problems such as the fact that not enough retired army and police officers have been found to form a 110-man observer force.

Political sources said the main problem was that one or more sides did not really want to implement the disengagement.

President Amr Gemayel met a delegate of former President Sul-

aiman Franjeh, a member of the opposition, as part of continuing consultations to reach agreement on political reforms in the country, sources at the presidential palace said.

Since a reconciliation conference last month in Switzerland failed to produce peace, the country's leaders have held individual meetings but have made little apparent progress at reaching political agreement.

Talks in Damascus

The main power broker in the conference, Syria, has also conducted various talks in Damascus regarding Lebanon, though a planned meeting between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents has been postponed indefinitely.

On Monday, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt met Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus to outline the opposition's basis for a settlement in Lebanon.

Mr. Junblatt's right-hand man Marwan Hamadeh told reporters after the meeting that Mr. Junblatt had outlined to Mr. Khaddam the opposition's basis for national reconciliation among Lebanese. He gave no details.



His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat (to the King's right), Royal Court officials, cabinet and parliament members attend the opening of the 28th session of the Conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Amman Monday (Petra photo).

Hassan stresses private sector role in joint Arab economic moves

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Monday that the responsibility of facing the dangers threatening the Arab Nation falls upon the private sector as well as governments and the public sector.

Delivering a speech to the participants in the 28th session of the Conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Prince Hassan said the Arab individual is capable of contributing to the efforts for joint Arab economic moves and that the private sector in Arab countries showed indications of the awareness of that important role.

Prince Hassan said that the petro-financial regression in the Arab World has had a direct negative impact on oil-producing Arab countries as well as countries which do not produce oil.

One of the most important negative effects of the petro-financial regression was the slackening in expenditure and economic growth which the region have witnessed, he said.

Prince Hassan pointed out that economic development is not a process of accumulating funds in foreign institutions. The proper investment of these funds in Arab-based projects, in addition to the other elements of production inside the Arab World, forms the sound basis for serving the Arab national goals, he said.

Prince Hassan said the world oil glut, "which might have resulted from factors and plans from outside the Arab area, should prompt us to direct further efforts and capabilities towards upgrading the efficiency of the economic effort

"to serve the national goals of development and the Arab citizen."

Therefore, Prince Hassan said, attention should be directed to raising the efficiency of the performance in both the public and private sectors. This entails the introduction of new administrative concepts, he added.

There is a need for finding a sound equilibrium between banks and financial markets and other investment facilities so that such institutions become a place for directing finances towards specific projects, he said.

Jordan believes in joint Arab efforts and considers them as very important in the light of the current economic recession, the Crown Prince said.

He also outlined the importance of Arab financial support of Jordan, which he said, "can help the Kingdom stand in the face of the Zionist expansionist threats."

Qatari leader warns of Zionist aggression

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, said Monday the Islamic World was passing through a "very delicate stage in which it faced 'blatant Zionist aggression' in its holy places, including Jerusalem."

In a statement issued when he arrived on a three-day state visit to Pakistan the Emir said: "The liberation of our holy places and the regaining of our dignity is now undoubtedly our prime duty."

"There is no way of fulfilling this duty without rallying our ranks and exerting collective efforts to bring about the closest possible co-operation among our countries and peoples, in order to develop our self-built Islamic power. This power... will alone ensure success."

Sheikh Khalifa said his talks with Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq would seek to find "the best means of furthering co-operation" between the two countries and to re-affirm a convergence of their positions on Islamic and Arab issues.

General Zia greeted the Emir at Islamabad airport.

UAE urges Washington to change Mideast policy

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday called for a "fundamental change in the U.S. Middle East policy."

Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahaym said that change was necessary in favour of a "balanced and unbiased policy" if the United States wanted to preserve the friendship of the Arabs, the Emirates news agency WAM reported.

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oned. "If the United States does not change its policy it should not expect any of its friends to remain as they were," he warned.

"The United States' friends felt let down despite Washington's attempts to defend its latest stand and policy in Lebanon," the UAE president was quoted as saying. "The U.S. has to make up for what happened if it wants its friends to hold on to their friendship and it wishes to preserve its interests," he added.

Kuwaiti speaker calls for Gulf contingency plans

KUWAIT (AP) — Parliament Speaker Muhammad Youssef Al Adasi on Monday discounted an early end to the Iran-Iraq war and called for contingency plans that would include stockpiling of foodstuffs and medicine.

In a statement to reporters, Mr. Adasi warned that the protracted war might precipitate the occupation of the Gulf oilfields by foreign powers.

Noting that Kuwait depends on oil as its major source of income, Mr. Adasi asked: "Have we prepared a plan to confront the situation if foreign forces entered this region or if the Hormuz (oil tanker seaway) were closed?"

The war, now in its 43rd month,

threatens to spill its fallout on the rest of the Gulf states in view of the repeated Iranian threats to block the Strait of Hormuz, the southern outlet of the Gulf waterway.

The United States has pledged to protect freedom of navigation in the waterway through which 40 per cent of Western Europe's and 60 per cent of Japan's oil supply pass.

"The end of the war is still unknown... with portents of big danger and foreign intervention," Mr. Adasi said.

He underlined Kuwait's location as the Gulf country closest to the war front, which is "only 160 kilometres away."

Namibian blast kills 2 U.S. diplomats

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Two U.S. diplomats stationed in Namibia (South West Africa) were killed in a bomb blast in the north of the territory Sunday, Namibian Administrator-General Willi van Niekerk announced.

The diplomats died when the blast ripped through a petrol station in Okatana, about 80 kilometres from the Angolan border, where they had stopped to refuel.

The bomb also killed two local residents and injured four others. Mr. Van Niekerk immediately blamed the attack on the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), a nationalist commando force which has been

waging a prolonged bush war against South African rule of the territory.

The diplomats were attached to a U.S. liaison office in Namibia's capital, Windhoek. The office was opened earlier this year to work with a joint Angolan-South African commission monitoring the withdrawal of Pretoria's forces from a foray into southern Angola.

No one claimed responsibility immediately. The SWAPO office in Luanda, the Angolan capital, did not respond to a telex inquiry and could not be reached by telephone.

In London, SWAPO deputy

chief representative Jacob Hannai said: "We didn't kill them. We never have known that there have been diplomats there. Who invited those diplomats to come to Namibia? SWAPO has never invited them to come to our country. I really have no idea who killed those people."

The U.S. government will maintain its presence in Namibia despite the deaths of the diplomats, a U.S. spokesman said.

The spokesman, Howard Jeter, told reporters in Windhoek that the U.S. would keep open its liaison office there, which works with a joint South African-Angolan commission.

Soviet, Egyptian officials discuss promotion of ties

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Soviet Union's last Ambassador to Egypt, Vladimir Polyakov, held talks here Monday on normalising the two countries' relations, more than two and a half years after he was expelled from the country.

Mr. Polyakov and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali reviewed "bilateral relations in the light of their mutual desire to develop and promote them," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Mr. Polyakov, now in charge of Near East affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, declined to speak to reporters after the 70-minute meeting.

He was Soviet ambassador to Cairo before he and six of his diplomatic staff were expelled in 1981 by President Anwar Sadat — a month before Mr. Sadat was gunned down by Muslim fundamentalists on Oct. 6.

The expulsion was the climax of almost a decade of strained relations, after Mr. Sadat ordered some 17,000 Soviet military advisers out of the country in 1972.

Since President Hosni Mubarak came to power in 1981, relations have gradually improved.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the two sides also discussed Middle East developments, the situation in Lebanon and other international problems.

It gave no further details but Western diplomats here said they believed the talks also dealt with Egyptian efforts to end the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

Egypt, at present serving on the

U.N. Security Council, is keen on Kremlin support for a new Egyptian plan aimed at ending the 43-month-old war.

Details of the plan have not been disclosed but Mr. Mubarak said last week it required the backing of the Security Council, of which the Soviet Union is a permanent member.

Mr. Mubarak has called back about 1,000 Russian experts to work in Soviet-built industrial installations and trade and cultural relations have improved.

A trade protocol boosted the value of their exchange from \$600 million to \$750 million and a cultural agreement for 1983/84 has stipulated joint research, use of Soviet expertise in Egypt and exchange of scholarships.

Mr. Mubarak has repeatedly said that he hoped to restore full diplomatic relations with Moscow soon.

Earlier this month, President Hosni Mubarak told a Lebanese magazine that the exchange of ambassadors would take place "soon".

Egyptian diplomatic sources said they did not see Mr. Mubarak's remarks as a significant shift in Egyptian foreign policy, and Soviet diplomats admitted they had been taken by surprise.

For more than a year after taking office, Mr. Mubarak had been saying the exchange of ambassadors would take place "at the appropriate time".

The Soviets slapped a ban on arms to Egypt in 1974 and Sadat turned to the United States and other Western countries for military hardware, a policy that continued under Mr. Mubarak.

In 1976 Mr. Sadat unilaterally abrogated a 1971 friendship and co-operation treaty with Moscow 10 years ahead of its expiration date.

Iraqis call for end to Gulf war

MOSUL (R) — Iraqis held their annual spring festival in the north Sunday, calling for peace and an end to the war with Iran, as fighting raged on in the south.

Hundreds of thousands turned out to celebrate the traditional festival in this 6,000 year old city.

Parading the streets in brightly coloured costumes, they sang, danced and chanted praise for the nation's leaders together with calls to end the war.

The traditional festival torch was lit by a man whom an announcer said was the father of two sons killed in the three-and-a-half year conflict with Iran.

And the crowds set free 1,000 doves to symbolise peace.

Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council which rules Iraq, said in a speech to the festival crowds that Iraq would emerge victorious from the war — "a victory for the humanitarianism will against the sources of evil and crime."

Arens says Israel is not planning to attack Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Responding to warnings from Moscow, Defence Minister Moshe Arens was quoted in a newspaper interview published on Monday as saying that Israel has no plans to attack Syria.

In the interview published in the conservative afternoon newspaper Maariv, Mr. Arens was quoted as saying he believed Soviet warnings to Israel not to attack Syria were "a demonstration of the level of support Syria has from the Soviet Union."

The Soviet government said in its official newspaper Izvestia on Sunday that Israel was threatening Syria by expanding its military presence facing the Syrians in eastern Lebanon, and had earlier warned Israel against attacking Syria.

Mr. Arens said the Soviets might also be playing safe by warning Israel not to exploit the power struggle in Damascus.

The failure of America's efforts to gain withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, to support the government of president Amin Gemayel and to push for an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute appears to have given the Soviets an opening.

Western diplomats here say, His Majesty King Hussein and Lebanese Prime Minister Shafik Al Wazzan have recently called for a Soviet role in the search for peace.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has said ambassadorial level relations with Moscow, brokered by the late President Anwar Sadat, soon will be restored.

But while the Soviets recently dispatched delegations to Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Iraq, their initiatives have been modest.

"We don't support the theory, or view, that any American failure creates a vacuum that we must hurry and fill," said Karen Brunt, deputy chief of the International Relations Department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, in a recent interview with the Beirut weekly Monday Morning.

"It will not affect Soviet policy if the Americans go off the rails or suffer any disappointment or setback in their policy in the Middle East."

He said the Soviet Union took the "long-term view" of the area and was concerned about Moscow's reputation among and co-operation with the Arabs "in their struggle to realise their goals in practical terms."

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'Saudi-Soviet dialogue underway'

KUWAIT (AP) — A recent dinner banquet hosted by the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington in honour of his Soviet counterpart was seen here Monday by two newspapers as the harbinger of a Saudi-Soviet dialogue.

The radical papers, Al Watan and Al Rai Al Aam, urged the Saudi government of King Fahd to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow.

The dinner, said Al Watan, marked the "beginning of a response by (Arab) moderate states to U.S. pro-Israeli bias."

The Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, hosted the dinner in Washington last Thursday, when he showed the Soviet ambassador, Anatoli Dobrynin, with traditional Arab hospitality, according to the two papers.

The Kuwaiti News Agency commented meanwhile that the banquet "astonished" U.S. State Department officials, noting it was the first time a Saudi ambassador made such a gesture to a Soviet diplomat.

Officially, Saudi Arabia rejects Communism and refuses to have diplomatic ties with Moscow.

But Kuwait remains the only country in the Gulf region to have full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries.

Citing unidentified diplomatic sources in Washington, the Kuwaiti agency claimed that U.S. State Department officials became

"worried" because the dinner banquet came hard on the heels of Prince Bandar's warning that his country might turn to other suppliers for weapons after the Reagan administration had withdrawn from Congress a projected deal of Stinger missiles for Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Al Watan commented that "strong relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union would be in the interest of the Arab cause in general and the Gulf region in particular."

It urged the Saudi-led Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to maintain "balanced" relations with the superpowers. The paper contended that Saudi-Soviet diplomatic ties would "undercut the U.S. influence" in the Gulf region.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in a regional economic integration and collective defence pact.

With the exception of Kuwait, the GCC countries have no diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union.

"We hope the dinner will be a painful prick to the United States and make it realise that its all-out commitment to Israel will cost it everything," said Al Rai Al Aam.

Talk of the eventualty of Saudi Arabia exchanging ties with the Soviet Union has been echoing off and on in the region during the past five years.

The Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah said in March last year that

although small countries stand to gain little from their relations with superpowers he thought that his government should weigh the advisability of establishing relations with Moscow.

The Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, visited Moscow in 1982 as member of an Arab League team that explained the Arab cause against Israel.

The visit prompted speculation that Prince Saud, the first Saudi foreign minister to go to the Soviet Union in 50 years, would open the road to diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

Prince Saud was quoted at that time as saying that "so far circumstances do not permit relations between us and the Soviet Union."

The Soviet Union recognised the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1926 and sent a consul general to Jeddah at the time.

In May 1932 the then Foreign Minister Prince Faisal — who later became king — visited Moscow and held talks with the Kremlin leadership.

In 1938 Moscow withdrew its diplomats from Saudi Arabia which has since maintained close ties with the United States and other Western powers.

Saudi Arabia has been deeply critical of Moscow's Mideast policy, the Soviet military presence in South Yemen and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Moscow strengthening Arab ties in wake of Washington's setbacks

By Stephen Hinds
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Soviet Union is moving cautiously to strengthen its ties with Arab nations in the wake of America's setbacks and growing Arab calls for a Soviet role in the region.

The failure of America's efforts to gain withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, to support the government of president Amin Gemayel and to push for an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute appears to have given the Soviets an opening.

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Israeli Labour has large lead in poll

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The opposition Labour Party has an early lead over the ruling Likud coalition in Israel's general election campaign, according to an opinion poll published Monday.

The poll, conducted by the Smith Research Centre, shows Labour leading the right-wing Likud by 41 per cent to 28 per cent in the run up to the July 23 election.

While this represents only a slight gain for Labour, it is a significant drop in support for the Likud, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Pollster Rafi Smith

told reporters. The poll showed six per cent of those questioned were undecided. Another six per cent said they would not be voting in July when the country will elect 120 members to the Knesset (parliament).

Monday's survey indicated Likud would lose 10 of its 46 seats in July, while Labour would keep its 50. Religious parties would gain 15 and a newly-formed centrist party, led by former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, would win three to four seats.

Last week a similar poll showed Labour winning 52 seats to Likud's 41.

The last major poll, by the Modi'in Ezrachi Institute, was published on April 3. It gave Labour 55 seats in the 120-member parliament (67 with its allies) against 37 for Likud (53 with its allies).

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Turkey rejects U.S. RDF while pursuing Mideast interests

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey, pursuing lucrative political openings in the Middle East, has made clear it will not provide facilities for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) to intervene in the region, Turkish and NATO officials say.

But they say Ankara is allowing the U.S. to develop bases in southeastern Turkey which could be used, with NATO approval, to help thwart any Soviet drive into the Gulf region.

Since the then U.S. President Carter set up the RDF after Iran's anti-American Islamic Revolution of 1979, Washington has pressed Turkey — a major recipient of U.S. military aid — to provide military bases and logistical support.

"The role the Turks are prepared to play is very different from what some people in the U.S. administration want. I don't think we can expect much from them," a U.S. official said.

"The Americans are free to define their expectations as they wish, but what Turkey is prepared to do is another story," a senior Turkish official said.

Foreign diplomats say Turkey, whose trade with Islamic states has boomed, is anxious not to be tarred with the brush of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

They say the RDF is much more likely to be used to put down domestic unrest in key states like Saudi Arabia than to face the improbable contingency of a Soviet move into northern Iran.

"There could be developments that really endanger the vital interests of the West, but there could be many other kinds of turmoil, where Turkey's vital interests do not converge with U.S. vital interests," the Turkish official said.

He said Turkey had played a role in ensuring that NATO did not give any unconditional backing for U.S. activities outside the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Seyfi Tashan, director of Turkey's non-governmental Foreign Policy Institute, said: "The problem is that we don't agree with American policy in the Middle East. We are allies against a common Soviet threat, but not for Israeli aggression."

Mr. Tashan said the key principles guiding Turkey's opening to the Middle East were: Non-interference in those countries

internal or inter-state disputes, developing bilateral trade, cultural and military ties and ensuring relations with the Middle East and the West were not detrimental to each other.

"Given its commercial interests, it is clear that Turkey cannot afford to be a springboard for American power in the region as it was in the 1950s," a West European diplomat said.

Iran last year became Turkey's top trading partner, buying goods worth over \$1 billion — one-sixth of all Turkish exports. Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya are also major markets.

Diplomats say two other factors have stiffened Turkish resistance to assisting the U.S. in the region — a cautious re-assessment of Turkey's Islamic identity and strains between Washington and Ankara over Cyprus.

NATO's only Muslim member, Turkey has stepped up diplomatic and cultural links with the Islamic World over the past year while holding ties with Israel at an inconspicuous low level.

A recent Senate committee vote making some military aid to Ankara conditional on concessions by the Turkish Cypriots has revived

bitter memories of the U.S. arms embargo which followed Turkey's 1974 invasion of Northern Cyprus.

Officials say Ankara initially refused a U.S. request for facilities to supply American forces in the ill-fated Lebanon Multinational Force. The government eventually agreed to a limited use of the Incirlik NATO Air Base for non-military supplies last October, sparking criticism in the Turkish media.

The Americans put Turkey in a very difficult position in Lebanon. Turkish bases were giving logistical support to the Sixth Fleet, which was bombarding Muslims around Beirut," said Sedat Ergin, diplomatic correspondent of the left-of-centre Cumhuriyet newspaper.

"Turkish policymakers have learned the lessons of the 1950s, when Arab and Islamic countries perceived Turkey as a mere tool of American policy in the region," Mr. Ergin added.

U.S. officials said Washington had come to accept that Turkey could have a more effective moderating influence in the Middle East if it were not seen to be closely tied to U.S. aims.

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UNRWA broke pay promise, say teachers

By Lamis Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian teachers working at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) schools Monday accused the agency of reneging on a promise to raise their salaries.

In a statement issued here this week, the executive committee of the UNRWA teachers stated that the agency has refused to fulfil its promise to the teachers to raise their salaries in accordance with the results of a mini-survey conducted by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

Salaries of UNRWA teachers, have been frozen since 1979 which means there have been no salary adjustments for five years, despite the cumulative rise in the cost of living in Jordan.

Last October, in response to teachers' protests, the agency agreed to raise the salaries paid to the teachers in line with a survey by the ICSC comparing the teachers' salaries with the cost of living in Jordan.

Teachers reluctantly accepted the findings of the survey, and the results were submitted to the UNRWA administration.

UNRWA, however, has not acted upon the ICSC proposals. Instead, the UNRWA administration has asked the ICSC to reconsider its results, while in the meantime freezing the salaries of UNRWA teachers in Jordan.

The UNRWA administration last February reportedly received a final report from the ICSC on its surveys in Syria and the Israeli occupied territories.

A meeting of the UNRWA directors in Vienna on April 17th and 18th will give their final answer on the issue, teachers said.

Preparation finalised for dentistry faculty opening

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan will from the beginning of the coming academic year receive its first batch of students to study in the faculty of dentistry, according to an article published in Al Rai daily newspaper.

It added that a number of assistant lecturers in the faculty have already been appointed to prepare them to be members of staff in the new faculty.

Necessary arrangements have also been made to put on a training programme in basic medical sciences for those dentists attending the university's Faculty of Medicine in the next semester.

The university has also had structural design plans drawn up for the intermediate stage of the faculties of pharmacy and dentistry, and tenders for building will be floated very soon for their construction.



Information Minister Mrs. Laila Sharaf Monday addresses a visiting delegation from the Pakistani National Defence College on the current problems plaguing the Arab region (Petra photo)

Storms badly disrupt communications

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has witnessed over the past two days storms and heavy rain that have swept the country, with high winds at times reaching nearly 95 kilometres per hour.

The unprecedented storms have disrupted communications, blocked roads, especially in the southern regions of the country, uprooted a large number of trees and disrupted telephone and electricity power lines in many regions.

The Public Security Department has issued warnings to drivers and members of the public to refrain from travelling to badly hit areas unless their journeys are of the utmost necessity.

A spokesman for Alia, the

Royal Jordanian Airline, said that the storms have caused several delays in flights scheduled from and to the Queen Alia International Airport.

Acting Director-General of the Meteorological Department Rafiq Shaker said that the storms, the worst of their kind in the country for the past 15 years, came in the wake of Khamasin conditions which brought about high temperatures followed by a steep drop in temperature and heavy rain.

The change in weather condition was originally caused by a depression centred over Cyprus and this was accompanied by several cold fronts that were joined by strong winds from Europe, he said.

The storms, he added, caused a number of road accidents along the Desert Highway, which links Amman with Aqaba in the south, mainly because of the swirling dust, earth and stones on the road and poor visibility.

Hassan, Tunisian minister hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in his office Monday with the visiting Tunisian minister of state for international co-operation, Ahmad Ibn Araf.

They discussed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering Jordanian-Tunisian co-operation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani and Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Mahmoud Charchoun.

Mr. Ibn Araf earlier met Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, the under-secretary at the ministry of industry. They discussed economic relations between Jordan and Tunisia.

Mr. Ibn Araf arrived here Sunday evening and said he was carrying a message to His Majesty King Hussein from President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

The envoy, who is being accompanied by an economic delegation, will hold further talks with Jordanian officials aimed at promoting bilateral economic ties.

Change to make expatriate entry easier

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Customs Department has made new arrangements to facilitate the entrance of Jordanian expatriates coming from the Gulf states to spend their summer holidays here, according to the Customs Department Director-General, Adel Qudus quoted in Al Rai daily newspaper.

He said regulations have been issued to prevent customs employees at border points taking leave as of May 1, until the end of the summer. The new rules will also increase the number of employees manning these points to avoid a long backlog at these points, he said.

These new arrangements, he added, also say that it will only be necessary to change number plates on cars registered in Saudi Arabia at Al Omari and Al Mudawwara border points. Cars coming from Kuwait and other Gulf states will be exempted from this procedure, he said, pointing out that the necessary new plates are ready.

The department, in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Works, has had prepared designs for resthouses, recreational places and toilet facilities at these points. The resthouse is expected to be ready for use by this summer.

Registration body team meeting takes place

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Registration Department's Director-General Rifa'i Al Hazayeb Monday explained the nature of work, the tasks and the responsibilities of his department to 75 new employees there.

The employees, who were transferred to the Civil Registration Department from various government departments, will be appointed in the various civil registration offices around Jordan.

Information chief seeks Arab-Islamic alliance

Mrs. Sharaf calls for united front on Mideast question

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf Monday called for the formation of a united Arab-Islamic front to exert efforts on the international level so as to help solve the Middle East question on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Mrs. Sharaf was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing the Pakistani National Defence College.

The minister referred to His Majesty King Hussein's call to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East in which all concerned parties would take part including the United States and the Soviet Union.

She said that the Middle East faces many problems the most serious ones of which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war.

Referring to the Middle East peace proposal of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, she said that it was still vulnerable to criticism at a time when Israel continues to occupy Arab territory and is intent on evicting the Arab population from their land in order to build settlements.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday also conferred with the Pakistani Defence College delegation on Middle East developments in general and the situation in the occupied Arab lands in particular.

Prince Hassan, using maps for illustration purposes, spoke in

detail about Israel's expansionist plans and settlement policies in the occupied areas.

The meeting, held at the Royal Scientific Society, was attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Ehsan Rashid.

The Pakistani delegation Sunday held a meeting with the Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb who briefed them on the history of the armed forces in Jordan.

The delegation, which arrived here Saturday on a visit to Jordan, also met Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who praised the good relations between Jordan and Pakistan.

Jordan and Pakistan, he said, hold identical views on most issues especially with regard to the Middle East question and the Iran-Iraq war.



Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade Jawad Al Anani (centre), with his under-secretary Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani (right), Monday hold discussions with Ahmad Ibn Araf, the Tunisian minister of state for international co-operation (Petra photo)

Phosphate board increased to eleven

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) will be composed of 11 members, nine of them representing the government, one representing the Pension Fund with the eleven member being elected by the JPMC general assembly, according to an amendment to article 45 of the company's constitution.

The amendment was approved Monday by the JPMC general assembly during an extraordinary meeting, presided over by Mr. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, chairman of the board of directors.

Prior to the amendment, the Jordan News agency, Petra, said, the board of directors consisted of only 10 members.

The JPMC also approved a budget of JD 89,528,717 for the year 1983. The general assembly, Petra added, also approved the board's proposal to distribute 12

per cent of the share's nominal value as a dividend.

During the meeting Mr. Khaled Abu Hassan was elected as the assembly's representative of the board.

Mr. Rawabdeh paid tribute to the efforts of the JPMC for their efforts in increasing the production of phosphates in 1983 while reducing the costs involved.

The major challenge the company is facing at this stage, Mr. Rawabdeh said, is reducing the production costs in order to make Jordanian phosphate competitive in more markets.

Meanwhile JPMC Director-General Wasef Azar said in reply to a question about the investment of JD 13,750,000 in the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) that the investment is aimed at facilitating the marketing of specific quantities of phosphates to the JFIC.



Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh

Zarqa to get new cultural centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Joint projects between the Zarqa municipality and the Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) and the improvement of general services to Zarqa residents were discussed Monday during a meeting between the municipality and the ZDC.

During the meeting, a proposal to build a public cultural centre to meet the needs of the city residents was approved. The centre will comprise an assembly hall and a public library, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Zarqa Municipality, Petra added, has donated a plot of land and of JD 50,000 towards the construction of the centre.

'Arab economic strategy most essential'

(Continued from page 1)

on establishing Arab companies to defend Arab economic interests and to take part in national activities and in conveying modern technology to the Arab World.

The chairman of the present session, Abdul Muhsein Abal Khail urged conferees, Arab businessmen and their organisations to announce their solidarity with Iraq and to take a responsible stance towards the Gulf war and express it in "every possible way".

Mr. Abal Khail also called for an economic boycott of Iran, ceasing any Arab trade dealings with it and to "sever all economic and trade relations with Tehran because of its continuous aggression on Iraq."

The deputy chairman of the conference and president of the Lebanese delegation, Adnan Al Qassar, said that the current phase through which the Arab Nation is facing is "a decisive stage which calls for intensifying efforts in

order to re-anchor Arab solidarity on a firm basis that can guarantee the achievement of integration of Arab economic security."

Lebanon's participation in the current session of the conference aims at re-affirming the country's role in Arab economic integration and co-operation, Mr. Qassar said.

The secretary general of the conference, Burhan Dajani, said that adverse changes in the trend of the Arab life calls for "quiet thought, discipline, wisdom and consultation because inter-Arab consultations were cut off at many points, indicating that consultations require an aware and disciplined honesty on the one hand and respect and appreciation on the other."

Dr. Dajani said: "We have arrived at a stage of dire need to ration Arab industry, business, agriculture, funds, finances, development and joint action."

Addressing the audience was also Arab Labour Organisation

(ALO) Assistant Director-General Ibrahim Mobammad Ahmad, who paid tribute to the role of the conference in determining the course of development in the Arab World.

The conference and the organisations attached to it are major pillars for the ALO and its three-dimensional structure, grouping governments, businessmen and workers in its membership, Mr. Ahmad said.

Mr. Ahmad expressed hope that the conference's deliberations would come up with providing a bigger opportunity for building a prosperous Arab economy.

The inauguration of the conference was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Royal Hashemite Court Chief, minister of the court, the chief chamberlain, commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, min-

isters, members of the Senate and the Lower House, clergymen, high officials, and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman.

Taking part in the meetings of the four-day conference are delegations representing 21 Arab states, in addition to the representatives of the Arab League, Arab governments, the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology, the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, the Special Bureau for Boycotting Israel, the International Labour Organisation, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, and the Arab Union for Sea Carriers, in addition to a large number of Arab organisations and institutions which are attending the conference as observers.

The conferees will be divided into working groups and will hold meetings as of Tuesday.

Alliance plan aims at 'foiling efforts to split PLO'

(Continued from page 1)

the differences between Fateh and the other organisations over Mr. Arafat's policies, especially his unexpected visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last December.

Mr. Abu Sharif said that the main objective of the ongoing dialogue among the Palestinian factions is to restore Palestinian unity and foil efforts to establish a "substitute" Palestinian organisation to replace the PLO.

The reconciliation meeting will also pave the way for convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Mr. Abu Sharif said that PFLP Secretary-General Abu Ali Mustafa and the DFLP Deputy Secretary-General Yasser Abu Rabbo will represent the four-faction alliance at the planned reconciliation meeting. Leaders of the Palestinian Communist Party and the PLF, which are not represented in the PLO Executive Committee, will also be present in Algiers but will not take a direct part in the meeting, Palestinian sources in Amman said.

Mr. Arafat has calling for an immediate session of the PNC, but differences between the different factions have delayed his efforts. Mr. Abu Sharif said that the PFLP favours an immediate PNC session, but "it is essential that all factions reach a comprehensive united programme before convening the PNC."

"The PLO's unity should be restored and an agreement should be prior to a PNC conference," Mr. Abu Sharif said, "and this has to be done to avoid dangerous splits and rifts within the PNC."

'Favourable developments'

According to Mr. Abu Sharif, who is also the editor of the main PFLP publication, Al Hadeef mag-

azine, said that despite "the setbacks that the PLO suffered since its departure from Beirut in 1982, recent developments in the area are favourable to the PLO's revolutionary struggle."

He cited these favourable developments as "the failure of American policy in Lebanon, the Lebanese popular resistance that culminated in the abrogation of the May 17 withdrawal pact between Israel and Lebanon, commando operations against Israel in South Lebanon, the revolutionary uprise of people in the occupied Arab territories and the strong and principled support of the Soviet Union for the Palestinian struggle."

The PLO should take advantage of these "positive developments" to promote the national goals of the Palestinian people and to change the current balance of power in the region," Mr. Abu Sharif said. "This can be done only by endorsing a revolutionary programme and stepping up the armed struggle," he added.

The PFLP has claimed responsibility for last Friday's commando operation in Israel which four Palestinians hijacked a bus from Tel Aviv to Rafah near the Egyptian border. The commando, who kept 35 passengers of the bus hostage for 10 hours and demanded the release of 500 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, were shot by Israeli troops early Friday.

Mr. Abu Sharif announced that the DFLP "will step up its commando operations" in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories because "armed struggle provides the only way to thwart capitulatory schemes and U.S. monopoly in the region."

He said that "military operations strengthen the position of forces which reject capitulatory policies within the PLO."

Outline of programme
The Jordan Times was able to

secure a copy of the "national salvation programme" which was submitted to the Fatch Central Committee.

The programme calls for the formation of a "broad national front" within PLO to "mobilise and gather all patriotic forces and personalities who are opposed to the capitulation of work within the PLO, and to protect the organisation's unity and revolutionary line, to confront capitulatory methods and to foil efforts to split the PLO."

It adds that the suggested front is not meant to be a substitute for the present PLO leadership. Following are translated excerpts from the programme:

The organisational formula for the suggested front is based upon four points:

—The "broad national front" is not a substitute leadership for the PLO and will not establish parallel institutions.

—A special working committee, that will include representatives of all factions and patriotic personalities and institutions that join the front, will administer the work of the front.

—The decisions of the committee will be based on consensus but in cases where consensus can not be reached each party can express independently its position.

—The committee will adopt a list to regulate its work including the formation of subcommittees.

The "political objectives" of the national front are the following:

—The central task of the national front is to maintain and cherish the unity and the achievements of the PLO.

—Confrontation of all "capitulatory and deviation policies in all their aspects," including a strict condemnation of Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and the adoption of "appropriate organisational measures" within the framework of the legitimate institution of the PLO.

—Commitment to the political and organisational programmes

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The logic of balance

THE VISIT to Egypt this week of former Soviet ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov seems to signal the latest step in a trend towards normal and improved Egyptian-Soviet ties. This strikes us as a logical development that should be encouraged, though we are unlikely to see the pendulum swing too far back to the point where Cairo's ties with Moscow come at the direct expense of its ties with Washington. Superpowers are one of life's more nagging inevitabilities, and in the Middle East it is difficult to make a move—or war, or peace—without finding oneself either in the lap or in the grip of one of the two superpowers. The history of Soviet involvement in the Middle East during the past three decades is not of the finest tales of political understanding and consistency. In Egypt, Iraq and elsewhere, the Soviet Union has come into and out of favour with a regularity that raises serious questions about the depth of Soviet involvement in the Middle East. From the Soviet perspective, this is probably politically palatable, for in more cases than not all Moscow has to do is wait on the sidelines for the Americans to make another big mistake in the area, and then move in at the right moment and collect the spoils. In the end, it is the Arabs themselves who have much to lose by flip-flopping from one camp to another, for we become viewed as erratic little states swinging from one side to the other in a poor show of inconsistency and expediency.

The Egyptians are in a position to break out of this cycle, and to develop a balanced relationship based on good, mutually beneficial ties with both superpowers. Egypt remains, when all else is said and done, the single most important Arab country in political and military terms. It is ironic that while the rest of the Arab World suffers from a series of political and military dilemmas, the Egyptians have slowly worked themselves into a tidy situation where they have normal ties with Israel, good ties with the United States, improving ties with Moscow and the prospect of normal ties with most Arab states once again. It's a neat trick, showing the logic of balance in one's relationships with the superpowers, and the neighbours.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: New necessary decision

AFTER THE decisions by the cabinet concerning customs tariff came the prime minister's decision laying down basis and specifications for government and public construction, and clearly calling on the private sector to follow the same regulations.

Those observing the construction development in Jordan during the last decade must have noticed the disorder and the waste of public and private finances, in addition to the lack of harmony among the buildings, our social identity and the purposes for which the buildings are constructed.

We are a Muslim Arab country with many burdens, threatened by many dangers. We are also a people with identity and culture, we have a distinguished Islamic and national character. Nevertheless, the buildings constructed on our land, whether for individuals or the public, have always been at a distance from such spiritual and meaningful aspects.

The Prime Minister's decision is a long-awaited step and should be followed by other steps with comprehensive re-assessment of rules and regulations which allowed iron and cement to invade the best building soils through the policy of horizontal expansion, and which left some an excuse for destroying and wasting private money which in turn is part of the public wealth and part of what should be a productive investment for our future generations.

Al Dustour: A Lebanese responsibility

AFTER A few weeks from the conclusion of the Lausanne Conference for national reconciliation in Lebanon, the ten-year-old Lebanese problem has reached a crisis leaving behind nearly 100 thousand deaths and thousands of wounded and handicapped victims in addition to hundreds of millions of dollars in material loss.

In the light of hostilities and struggles in Lebanon these days, there seems to be no ray of hope in the horizon for the Lebanese to look to with confidence, and there is no hope of a near deliverance from this crisis.

The suggestion made by the Zionist war minister on Saturday that a cease-fire be made between Israel and Syria in the Bekaa is another proof that Lebanon is being driven into partition and ruin in the absence of integrated view of its people and the continuation of their disputes and struggles.

As we look to events in Lebanon with grief and sorrow, we will always remember that the key to solving this crisis is in the hands of the Lebanese people themselves if they want to agree on joint national margins, and not in the hands of others whose interests lie in the continuation of destruction and killing in Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shuab: Scanning development scene

THE IMPORTANCE of the Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture Conference lies in its representation of the national economic factors in the Arab World. It also reflects the outcome of experiences, thoughts and ambitions of the private sector which is the wide base for economic processes in the Arab community.

The conference will inevitably face Arab investment policies and the need for expanding Arab investments in social and economic development projects especially in the private sector, in order to strengthen Arab economic security.

The conference's agenda and the rich studies, researches and experiments in the economic field will represent a serious attempt at a re-evaluation of Arab policies in the fields of investment, finance, employment of human potentials and trade exchange, casting light on the outcome of Arab development plans and conclusions to be reached for the future.

Those who kill babies and kiss babies

By Rami G. Khouri

THE TWO attacks against Israeli civilians by Palestinian guerrillas last week have suddenly revived the spectre of dramatic "terror" tactics by the Palestinians. I put the word "terror" in quotations intentionally, because it is a loaded word that cannot simply roll off the lips in the same manner as does, say, Gruyere cheese or dioxynibonucleic acid. The attack in the shopping street in west Jerusalem and the hijacking of the bus in southern Israel were, in descriptive terms, pure "terror" incidents. How, specifically, should the Arabs and the Palestinians relate to this kind of terror? It may be slightly unfashionable to take this kind of dramatic action and subject it to detailed and relatively subtle analysis, in an effort to really understand how it relates to everything else that is going on in the Middle East. But I feel this is precisely what is required in the Arab World today—a public discussion of the most basic and the most sensitive issues. (If, parenthetically, the Arab World is looking for a good measure of the real value of its public political institutions, such as parliaments, national councils, consultative councils and whatever else there may be, I would suggest that the value and legitimacy of any public forum be measured by its ability to discuss openly the issues that people discuss in their homes on a daily basis, thereby finally bridging the long gap between the private and public

identities of Arab people). The two attacks have sparked off considerable private discussion in the area. Two opinions predominate: that the attacks were a heroic manifestation of the Palestinian people's endless will to struggle for their rights, or that the attacks were a heroic manifestation of the Palestinian people's endless will to struggle for their rights, but would not contribute anything towards achieving those rights. Note the distinction between the morality of the act and the political effectiveness of the act; for this is the crucial distinction in Arab minds which needs to be appreciated for what it is—an important political and psychological movement forward by Arab psyches that have started to distinguish between what is emotionally uplifting and what is politically productive. In terror, the two criteria

hing to return to their homes then that is their tough luck and their just fate." The corollary to this line of thinking is that terror will not, in itself, liberate Palestine from the grip of Zionism; it is simply a thorn in the side of the Israeli state, a symbolic, nagging reminder from the entire Palestinian nation of four million people that we shall not accept humiliation or defeat without fighting back with the only means allowed to us. If the Zionists stole our land by force, we shall try to get it back by force, street by street, bus by bus.

This is where the distinctions come into play. While almost everyone in the Arab World is moved by the bravery of young Palestinians who go on a mission of this sort, knowing they will almost surely die, many people are starting to question the political value of the use of terror, (or, as I prefer to call it, unconventional warfare). The widespread Palestinian terror of the late 1960s and early 1970s came at a different stage in the national struggle of the Palestinians. It served two purposes: to restore to battered Arab and Palestinian minds a sense of one's most fundamental existence and one's ability to strike back at the enemy and the world; and, to send a message to the world community that the Palestinians were still there, still seeking their political and national rights. By all counts, both purposes were largely achieved—not, of course, because ter-

ror turned out to be a most cost-effective political instrument (this is a concept that prevailing global morality and hypocrisy refuse to accept), but because changing weather patterns and tidal currents produced changes in the mineral content of the water of the world, which, when consumed by the citizens and politicians of the world, caused them to pay attention to the Palestinian issue, and set off on a sustained diplomatic spree that has resulted in, among other things, the Camp David accords, the Reagan initiative, U.N. Resolution 3236, the Fez summit resolutions, the Venice declaration and the Brezhnev plan.

In the 1970s, the Palestinian issue finally caught the attention of the world community. Today, we are at a point where almost the entire world accept the principle of Palestinian national self-determination in Palestine and security for all states in the region, which translates into dual statehood for Palestinians and Israelis in a partitioned land of Palestine. What brought this about, besides the water factor?

Will this significantly enhanced global appreciation of the rights of the Palestinians be enhanced further by acts of (gasp, it hurts every time I say it) Palestinian terror? Will Palestinian terror kill off any nascent movement in Israel among Israelis who have started to advocate co-existence with the Palestinians on equal

terms, in two adjacent states? The criteria for answering these questions are crucial.

As an affirmation of one's troubled existence, Palestinian terror remains a potent instrument, but one that also affirms the lack of political hope among the Palestinian nation. Reduced to hopelessness and frustration, the ravaged Palestinian mind strikes back with the only weapon it feels it can still use—terror.

But as a substantive political weapon that will bring us closer to the day when we might envisage a negotiated resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, terror at this stage is counterproductive. It alienates those around the world who would otherwise support us in public; it slowly undermines the position of those few Israelis who have appreciated the need to live on equal terms with Palestinians.

So, when discussing the relative value or effects of Palestinian terror, I suggest the point is not how the Palestinians should choose their weapons; rather, it is: those who would judge the Palestinians should pay more attention to how they choose their criteria for judgement.

Easy as it may be, it is insufficient and dishonest simply to isolate Palestinian terror and judge it by itself as one of humankind's more horrible evils. The world is not so simple, even if Jean Kirkpatrick would like it to be. Palestinian terror has to be dealt with as

only the latest manifestation of a violent region in which many different groups have successfully resorted to terror tactics in the past when they thought that other options open to them were less appropriate or less effective. As such, terror in the Middle East, by whoever it may be committed, including states, even states financed by superpowers, should be recognised for what it is and what it has always been—a reminder of a problem, but not a means to its solution. That, it seems to me, is just about where we are today with the resurgence of Palestinian terror. It reminds us that we have a problem on our hands, a problem of four million Palestinians whose land and homes have been stolen. But terror is unlikely ever to resolve the problem. That we have come, one day, by negotiations among Palestinians and Israelis who have realised that their best hope for mutual security and national dignity lies in resolving their competing claims to the land of Palestine by sharing the land of Palestine.

Then, the terrorists will become statesmen, the freedom fighters will become national leaders, the killers of babies will become politicians who kiss babies, and the revolutionaries will become the fathers of their countries. Isn't that the enduring lesson of the American Revolution, of Vietnam, of Algeria, of Zimbabwe and, gulp, it hurts every time I say it, of Israel?



Nicaragua mining sparks new friction between the U.S. and NATO partners

By John Rogers

LONDON — U.S. support for rebel mining of Nicaraguan ports has added another issue to a growing list on which the Reagan administration and NATO allies are out of step.

France, Britain, the Netherlands, Spain and Canada voiced varying degrees of concern over the planting of mines and reported involvement, not officially confirmed, of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The European reaction was less severe than the outburst of European condemnation which greeted the U.S.-led invasion of Marxist-ruled Grenada last October.

But the mining revived unease among America's NATO allies over U.S. military involvement in Central America and backing for right-wing rebels fighting Nicaragua's Left-wing government.

West European diplomats saw the Nicaragua mining row as just one more source of friction in trans-Atlantic relations, rather than as a serious upset for U.S.-European friendship.

"The Americans know that the allies support the U.S. on its broader aims in Central America, the establishment of peace and democracy," one said. "We support American economic aid. The problem is that it is less visible than the military aspect."

Diplomats said the Reagan administration would be more worried about strong U.S. congressional condemnation of the mining operations, which U.S. press reports say may now have ended.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, speaking last week on U.S. links with the European Community, said there were no serious differences on major issues although different foreign policy approaches continued to act as an irritant.

"When things get difficult, we all stand together," he told a conference in Belgium.

However, allied opposition to the mining, on top of condemnation by leading Latin American states, amounted to a considerable international outcry.

France and the Netherlands voted last week for a Nicaraguan resolution in the U.N. Security Council, which the United States vetoed, calling for an immediate end to the mining.

France said it was ready to help clear the mines, although the Socialist government in Paris appeared reluctant to get into a public row with Washington soon after a successful state visit there by President Francois Mitterrand.

Britain's Conservative government, Mr. Reagan's staunchest European ally, protested to Washington over the planting of mines as a threat to international navigation.

Spain lodged a formal protest Friday night.

Canada's Acting External Affairs Minister Gerald Regan said Ottawa had urged the United States to respect international law in Central America and was concerned about increased military activity in Nicaragua.

West Germany voiced no public criticism. But officials said privately they shared British and French concern over dangers the mining posed to international shipping and were uneasy over U.S. actions in Central America.

A senior West German opposition figure, Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, called on the Bonn government to condemn the mining as "tantamount to an act of undeclared war."

The Nicaragua mining row followed a series of misgivings in European countries — usually among opposition politicians but sometimes in government ranks as well — over President Reagan's foreign policy.

NATO's basing of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe last year was accomplished after a bitter debate in which European government had to fend off opposition charges that Mr. Reagan was not serious in seeking arms control accords with Moscow.

The invasion of Grenada sparked widespread criticism in Western Europe and outright condemnation by some allies.

U.S. naval shelling in Lebanon last September prompted fears in Europe — defused by the recent withdrawal of a U.S.-led Multinational Force — that the United States might get sucked into the Lebanese civil war.

In defence matters, the European allies have been in conflict with Washington over U.S. demands for more stringent controls on exports of potentially strategic goods such as computers to the Soviet Union.

West European defence ministers appear sceptical about Mr. Reagan's costly "Star Wars" research programme for a space-based defence system against Soviet nuclear missiles.

West Germany, in particular, feels the U.S. programme would protect only the United States and could undermine hard-won NATO unity on deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe, which is still only in its first phase.

Among economic and trade arguments, the 10-nation European Community has voiced disquiet this year over what it calls growing protectionist pressures in the United States.

Against this background, allied concern over U.S. military involvement in Central America — remote from Europe but of central concern to Washington — has emerged as a nagging issue in long-term U.S.-European relations.

A senior Reagan aide, Jean Kirkpatrick, made it clear this week that the U.S. administration fears European criticism of U.S.



foreign policy actions could undermine the alliance.

In a speech in London, the U.S. permanent U.N. representative hit out at what he described as uneven European attitudes towards Nicaragua, with some politicians ready to criticise U.S. actions there and to overlook those of Cuban and Soviet bloc advisers.

She voiced disquiet at what she called a tendency in Europe to regard the Soviet Union and the United States as moral equals in foreign policy methods.

She was especially critical of politicians who equated U.S. actions in Grenada with Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

"If the opinion that the United States is a lawless, reckless gun-slinger spread widely enough, the alliance will simply collapse by mutual consent of distrust on the European side and disgust on the American side," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said.

Hart needs another miracle to survive

By David Nagy

WASHINGTON — In a Democratic presidential nomination campaign marked by stunning turnabouts, the final miracle, if there is one, will be up to Gary Hart.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale has now worked his own brand of magic and taken credit for a remarkable comeback, telling supporters after last Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary victory: "Something powerful is happening... I can feel it."

For him, that win gave a new twist to what had looked like a political upset story just a month ago.

Knocked out of his front-runner position and shattered by Colorado Sen. Hart in early primary battles, Mr. Mondale got his campaign back together again and recouped with key victories in Alabama, Michigan, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

Even so, with the Democratic race now past its half-way mark and Mr. Mondale holding a two-to-one lead in nominating convention delegates, both camps insist a fierce battle still lies ahead.

"I'd compare it to a three-round championship fight," said Sen. Hart campaign manager Oliver Henkel, who is supervising a hard-hitting come-back strategy dubbed "give 'em hell, Gary."

Mr. Henkel says "new ideas" candidate Hart won round one from the Feb. 28 New Hampshire primary until mid-March, when Mr. Mondale began his round-two recovery.

"The third and decisive round is coming up," featuring major contests on May 5 in Texas, May 8 in Ohio and June 5 in California, he said.

Mr. Henkel added: "We face a very real likelihood that none of the candidates will have enough delegates pledged to him by June 5." This would leave Sen. Hart and Mr. Mondale to fight it out at the nominating convention in July with black leader Jesse Jackson, the third candidate, possibly holding the balance of power.

Political analysts say that such a situation would delight President Reagan, who is cruising to the Republican nomination unopposed and remains personally popular.

While Mr. Reagan has political problems currently highlighted by his fight with Congress over aid to Nicaraguan rebels, the Democrats cannot take full advantage of his vulnerability as long as they are battling each other.

Sen. Hart's stop-Mondale plan may be an outside chance but it is not impossible in the view of such neutral experts as Democratic Party Chairman Charles Manatt.

In a recent interview, Mr. Manatt said he could foresee a situation in which no one locked up the necessary majority of convention delegates — 1,967 out of 3,933 — in the primaries.

He and others predict, if that happened, the issue would be still settled before the convention opens by fierce competition for undecided delegates and possibly for Mr. Jackson's backing.

Mr. Jackson, who has been sweeping the black vote and could command more than 200 delegates, has said he will demand commitment to key political reforms in return for his support.

Sen. Hart, however, has major tasks to perform if he is to bring about this type of dramatic, cliff-hanger finish.

Thirty states have held their primary or initial party caucus votes. Only 20 remain open to contest.

Unofficial estimates give Mr. Mondale 1,030 delegates to 561 for Sen. Hart, 152 for Mr. Jackson and 331 uncommitted.

The vote-winning magic Sen. Hart once possessed seems to have deserted him. Mr. Mondale won 11 of the last 14 clear-cut results including the top prizes of Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Henkel sees a silver lining. "The important momentum," he said, "is what will flow out of round three."

Sen. Hart and Mr. Henkel argue the primary calendar now favours the primary, because many of the remaining contests will be held in the "sunbelt" of the West and southwest which the Colorado senator considers his political turf and where Mr. Mondale's traditional liberalism and trade union backing may prove unpopular.

With only a few minor caucuses this month, the real "round three" action resumes only with the prestigious Texas caucuses, controlling 169 delegates, on May 5.

Mr. Henkel said he was confident his candidate could win Texas, but Mr. Mondale's aides are just as confident. They have more political resources in that state than Sen. Hart, including support from leaders of Texas' big Hispanic-American Community.

Defeat there would put pressure on Sen. Hart to do well in two remaining clusters of major primaries — four, led by Ohio, on May 8 and five, featuring California and New Jersey, on June 5.

California is a question mark but Ohio and New Jersey closely resemble the industrial states Mr. Mondale has already won.

Despite the long odds, several factors could help Sen. Hart. Interviews with recent primary voters by NBC and ABC Television News showed that Mr. Mondale's wins have been built on strong support from trade unionists, the elderly, Catholics and people of central European stock and other traditional Democratic blocs.

These play less of a role in most of the upcoming states apart from Ohio and New Jersey.

The same surveys show that, even when he won, Mr. Mondale was widely perceived as a captive of special interest groups and an old-style politician who promises too much to too many people.

Mr. Henkel said Sen. Hart will hit hard at this theme as part of a drive to get off the defensive and take the fight to Mr. Mondale.

Mr. Mondale's aides say he can only spend about another \$6.5 million under federal campaign financing limits. Sen. Hart can more than double that outlay if he can raise the cash.

مركز من الامم

Nation awash in chemicals with effects unknown

By Barbara S. Moffet

What enrages the sealers is the use by the Environmental International Fund for animal welfare of emotive pictures of defenceless baby seals being battered

TSCA attacks the chemical problem on several fronts. One is that, before a company begins to produce and sell a new product, it must notify EPA. But because the law does not require testing of the

An EPA biologist checks on a family of Long-Evans rats in an experiment on trichloroethylene, a common industrial solvent- (N.G. photo)

The act also gives EPA powers to regulate or ban chemicals that pose an "unreasonable risk." EPA officials point to their two major actions — "advanced notices of proposed rulemaking," meaning that controls are contemplated. One of the substances

products more flexible, including shower curtains, surgical gloves, and bags of intravenous fluids. "It could be dangerous to people getting frequent blood transfusions," says Dr. Huff. DEHP is also used in car upholstery, although there it poses no known risk. "It's not

the shortcomings of the toxic Substances Control Act. But environmental groups fault EPA, such as in the case of PCBs.

Still in the philosophical stage is what happens when two or more chemicals mix. "We're exposed to hundreds of chemicals," says Dr. Huff, a toxicologist. "What they all do together is a very nuclear area of science." — National Geographic feature.


By Richard Waddington

Mr. Frisch said the bird is now semi-domesticated, the reason it is


But next time they return they can be sure they will be no longer destined for cooking pots or driven from their resting places with fires and sticks.

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Moscow undecided about Olympics participation

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Monday it had yet to decide whether to take part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games, declaring that its choice would depend on U.S. behaviour.

State sports chief Marat Gramov set out Moscow's position at a news conference where he repeated Soviet charges that Washington was violating the Olympic Charter on a number of issues, mainly requirements for entry by athletes into the United States.

Western diplomats said they believed the news conference, organised by the foreign ministry amid a strong official media campaign against the U.S. organisers, was aimed at heightening suspense over the Soviet decision on Olympic participation.

But they interpreted his ambiguous remarks as meaning there was little chance Moscow would stay away from the Olympics.

Gramov, who also serves as chairman of the Soviet Union's National Olympic Committee (NOC), denied that Moscow might resort to a boycott but indicated the Soviet team might still stay away from Los Angeles.

"We will not boycott the Olympic Games," he said. But he added: "We make a distinction between the word boycott and not attending."

The Soviet NOC will meet in

late May, shortly before the June 2 deadline, to decide whether to enter, he said.

Officials at the press conference said members of an 800 strong Soviet Olympic "family" — sportsmen, trainers, journalists and others — were now preparing for the Games and the country would enter all events for which it was qualified.

Answering questions, Gramov said the Soviet approach to the Los Angeles Olympics was not a reprisal for the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

"We have never taken revenge against anyone and we are not going to do it in the future," he said.

Gramov laid all the blame for the Soviet uncertainty on the Los Angeles Organising Committee and the U.S. government.

"Soviet sportsmen must have normal conditions for participation... this is a very important consideration that could lead to a positive decision to attend the Games," he said.

Soviet anger over U.S. handling of the Games erupted earlier this year after the U.S. State Department rejected Moscow's appointment of its Olympic attaché.

The Soviets have said that the Americans are commercialising the Games, mounting a campaign that threatened the lives of Soviet participants and imposing special visa requirements.

Senior officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) are due to meet in Lausanne on April 24 to hear the Soviet complaints.

Gramov said Washington, in a note handed over in Moscow last week, had dropped requirements for a form of visa but the U.S. authorities were still insisting on approving a list of Soviet participants.

Under IOC rules, the host country must admit all participants on presentation of National Olympic Committee identification and a valid passport.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Moscow said the State Department was "not subjecting the Soviet Union to any special restrictions."

"All countries have been asked to provide a list," he said.

The United States has also rejected Soviet charges that it is effectively promoting possible terrorist acts against Soviet participants by groups opposed to Soviet participation.

Gramov repeated the charge

and added: "Now they are trying to make it look as though the (anti-Soviet) organisers are not supported by the federal authorities and are not controlled by them."

The Soviet committee chief also voiced objection to the construction of three Olympic villages instead of one.

Gramov said he would be prepared to meet the chairman of the Los Angeles committee, Peter Ueberroth, who said last week he might come to Moscow.

The two main Soviet newspapers, Pravda and Izvestia, Monday maintained their criticisms over the Olympics.

In Pravda, veteran champion gymnast Larissa Latynina wrote of her alarm over the alleged physical dangers to the Soviet team and what were called pollution of the Olympic spirit by the Los Angeles organisers.

Izvestia complained that the U.S. authorities had lacked even elementary decency in dealing with plans for the arrival of the Soviet liner Gruzia which will bring some Soviet athletes and officials to Los Angeles.

The ship had been treated by the U.S. press as a "floating spy centre" and the authorities had insisted on inspecting it on arrival, Izvestia said.

Crenshaw powers his way to Masters golf triumph

AUGUSTA, Georgia (R) — Ben Crenshaw powered his way to a two-stroke triumph in the U.S. Masters Golf Championship with a four-under-par 68 Sunday, achieving his greatest dream, a victory in a major golf tournament.

Crenshaw won the coveted green jacket and a \$108,000 first prize with a 11-under-par total of 277 at the 6,905-yard Augusta National Course. Tom Watson shot a 69 to earn second place, one ahead of Gil Morgan and David Edwards.

The 32-year-old Texan had finished runner-up in the British Open twice, the PGA once and the Masters last year. However, none of his nine tour victories had come in a major event.

Crenshaw, the sentimental favourite who led after 18 holes, began the final round solidly with a birdie at the 555 yard second hole on a breezy day in which clouds kept moving in to block out the sunshine.

Crenshaw birdied the other outward par five hole, the eighth, then nosed into the lead for the

first time since the opening round by smacking an approach shot six feet from the flagstick for a birdie at the ninth.

He notched his third successive birdie at the difficult downhill 10th where he chipped into the cup from short of the green.

Crenshaw dropped a stroke when he missed the green of the 11th hole, but clinched the title at the next, the picturesque but treacherous 155-yard 12th with its narrow, bunker-flanked green guarded by the broad expanse of Rae's Creek.

He lofted a perfect approach shot 12 feet from the flagstick for a birdie, while his closest challengers at that stage, Larry Nelson and Tom Kite both sank their hopes by dumping their tee shots into the water.

Crenshaw played conservatively for a par at the 13th, rolled in a testing 15-foot putt for another at the 14th, then opened up an unassailable four-shot lead by holing a birdie putt at the 500-yard 15th after sensibly laying up in front of the water.

McCormy retains WBC title

DETROIT (R) — American Milton McCormy successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight championship Sunday, stopping Gilles Elbilba in the sixth round of a bout that ended with the French challenger protesting against the referee's decision to halt the fight.

McCormy floored Elbilba, the European champion, in the sixth round of the scheduled 12-round match with a left hook that apparently broke his nose.

Elbilba was bleeding heavily from the nose and a cut above his left eye and a scrape under his right. When McCormy continued to batter him with lefts and rights, referee Carlos Padilla stopped the action at 1:06 of the round.

"I want a return match," Elbilba said. "This isn't amateur boxing. It's pro boxing. Our strategy was to be very careful for five rounds and get started when I warmed up."

His American manager, George Kanter, said he would protest against the decision to the WBC.

"I'm protesting Padilla's partiality," Kanter said. "It's a disgrace."

Despite the controversial ending, McCormy was in complete control of the bout in scoring his 23rd victory against one draw.

Elbilba, 27, did not win a round on any of the three judge's cards. He was given a draw in the second round on the card of judge Salvador Placencia of Mexico. The other judges, Angel Guzman of Puerto Rico and Jorge Velasco of Mexico, gave all the rounds to McCormy.

McCormy dominated with left jabs, left hooks and straight rights that landed frequently to Elbilba's head. Elbilba landed one crisp punch, a left hook that caught the 22-year-old champion in the fifth round.

McCormy, who is six feet one inch tall (1.8 metres), had a four-inch (10 cm) height advantage over Elbilba.

It was the third loss for Elbilba against 23 victories. He went into the bout rated the number nine cooteyder by the WBC in the 147 pound division.

The referee stopped the fight for the vacant title two minutes 28 seconds into the eighth round after Shingaki, 20, floored Magallano for the second time.

Japan's Shingaki wins IBF crown

KASHIHARA, Japan (R) — Japan's Satoshi Shingaki won the International Boxing Federation (IBF) bantamweight title Monday when he knocked out Elmer Magallano of the Philippines to the eighth round of the scheduled 15-round bout here.

The referee stopped the fight for the vacant title two minutes 28 seconds into the eighth round after Shingaki, 20, floored Magallano for the second time.

Lloyd has beaten the West German in all three of their meetings, the last of which came in the 1983 Canadian Open.

Lloyd has led his country in a world record 63 tests.

British officials differ on Budd's Olympic chances

LONDON (AP) — Zola Budd, the 17-year-old white South African record-breaking runner who won a British passport in record time, has split British athletics officials.

Officials gave contrasting views over the weekend on whether Miss Budd should run in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles this summer and some predict that the Olympic rulebook may still prevent her doing so.

Despite gaining British citizenship in only 10 days, the rules say that Miss Budd must live in Britain for three years before representing her new country. There could be a decision on April 27 when the Olympic eligibility committee meets.

Bill Evans, chairman of Britain's Amateur Athletics Association said Sunday: "My personal opinion is that she is not eligible to compete for Britain."

Sir Arthur Gold, President of the European Athletic Union and Britain's senior representative in the Olympic movement, said: "In order for her to qualify, the rules requiring athletes to be resident in the country they represent would have to be waived. I do not think

they can be."

But Charles Palmer, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, said he has told the International Olympic Committee that Zola is eligible. "She hasn't changed her nationality so the three-year residence qualification simply doesn't apply," he said.

Palmer said that Zola was granted British citizenship as a right as a minor, because her father and grandfather have British nationality.

Miss Budd came to Britain March 24 because she wants to run competitively and her racially segregated homeland is barred from almost all international sports.

Granting of her British citizenship in 10 days started a storm because many other would-be immigrants often wait years.

Nigel Cooper, general secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, watched Zola win her first race in Britain Saturday, when she got three seconds under the Olympic qualifying time for the 3,000-metres by clocking 9 minutes 2.6 seconds in a race at Dartford, Kent.

Cooper said that Zola should be

allowed to get on with her running and that her critics should "lay off," including Gerald Kaufman, Home Affairs spokesman of the opposition Labour Party, who is demanding an inquiry into why Home Secretary Leon Brittan gave Zola a passport so quickly.

Zola and her coach, Peter Labuschagne, were to discuss the teenager's running plans Monday with Cooper.

"She did far better than we expected at Dartford," the coach said. "It's not up to me to pick her. But I try to prepare her for the Olympics. I'm hopeful she will make it."

The Daily Mirror reported Monday that five of the nine executive members of the IOC eligibility committee may vote against Zola.

Gold said that if IOC President Juan Samaranch says yes to Zola, "he will be attacked for allowing a white South African into the Games."

An unidentified member of the IOC was quoted in the Daily Mirror as saying: "If the IOC rush through this girl's application, they will be accused of by-passing the boycott on South Africa."

Cooper said that if Zola doesn't run in Los Angeles "there is always a mass of lucrative meetings across Europe in which she can compete." Her presence in the Dartford race boosted attendance there from a normal 150 to 6,000 and also attracted radio, television and newspapers from all over the world.

Sports kit manufacturers are also interested in getting Zola to promote their products.

The Daily Express noted that eight British girls have reached the Olympic qualifying time for the 3,000 metres and that Zola's best time at the distance "rates her only 11th best in the world last year."

Qatar thrashes Malaysia

SINGAPORE (R) — Qatar stunned Malaysia with two goals in a four-minute second half spell that gave them a 2-0 victory in a Group "B" Asia-Oceania Olympic soccer qualifying tournament match here Monday night.

A penalty and a defensive error provided the chances early in the second half for Qatar to gain their decisive surprise victory.

After a goalless and tightly-fought first half played in front of 25,000 fans at the Singapore national stadium, the second half erupted with excitement.

Malaysia had held a slight advantage in midfield even without five star players who were banned by the International Football Federation (FIFA) last week for playing in an unsanctioned game last December.

But Qatar went in front when Hong Kong referee Thompson Chan awarded them a penalty after Malaysia's Jamal Abdul Nasir handled in the 52nd minute. Midfielder Ibrahim Khalifan Ahmad blasted the ball into the roof of the net from the penalty spot to open the scoring.

Qatar, runners-up in the recent Gulf tournament in Oman, increased their lead three minutes later when the Malaysia defence failed to clear a low cross from the right by Qatar fullback Mohammad Delam Al Sowaidi.

Qatar midfielder Khalid Mohammad Al Mohammadi sent a rising shot past Malaysian goalkeeper Abdul Rashid Hassan from close range.

Malaysia's next match is against Japan on Wednesday. Qatar meet Thailand on Saturday.

The 16-day tournament which started on Saturday is being played in two groups. The two group champions and the winners of a runners-up playoff will qualify for Los Angeles.

By Paul Radford
Reuter

BONN — West German boxer Rene Weller went on to knock out titleholder James Ortega of the United States in two minutes 38 seconds to become a super featherweight champion of the little-known World Athletic Association (WAA).

Six police were at the ringside with a warrant for his arrest after he had failed to appear in court and give evidence at the trial of a man charged with receiving stolen goods.

Weller himself faced charges of receiving gold and silver worth 10,000 marks (\$3,850) from the man and further charges of receiving and coercing in two other court cases.

He admits to contacts with the West German underworld, saying "I only know the nice ones," but denies all the offences.

Even the Pope could not have a better police record than I have, he once said.

Weller boasts of enterprises which include a boxing club with its own solarium and sauna. He is also a fashion designer, a dealer in leather goods and jewellery.

Before turning professional

when she made a bail payment of 7,000 marks (\$2,700).

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Before turning professional

comparatively late three years ago, he trained as a central heating engineer and a technical draughtsman.

By then he had 10 West German amateur titles to his credit and a record of almost 400 fights with just 21 defeats. He is still unbeaten in his 24-bout professional career.

Typically, he has his own philosophy for boxing: "It's about distributing blows. That is very Christian. It is more blessed to give than to receive."

And the fighter whose good looks are so far unspoiled by his career says the sport is "No more dangerous than drinking a cup of coffee."

Weller aims to cash in while he is so top. Already he has plans for a second title defence next month against Frenchman Daniel Londas and hopes for a world title bout this autumn.

But whether he can survive at the top is another matter. Despite his eloquence outside the ring and his Ali shuffle inside it, he was unimpressive against Cusma and has yet to prove he is as great a boxer as he is a showman.

West Indies set for Lloyd's crowning glory

LONDON (R) — West Indies, with their irresistible blend of exhilarating batting and spectacular fast bowling, are set to provide a fitting finale to Clive Lloyd's outstanding reign as their captain on the forthcoming tour of England.

Lloyd's West Indians play five tests and three one-day internationals in what should be a characteristically compelling and colourful visit that is the showpiece of the English cricket season starting this week.

The tour will be conducted against a domestic background of the County Championships and three one-day competitions, while the latter part of the season is marked by a short visit from Sri Lanka for their first test in this country.

Although Australia remain traditionally England's arch rivals, West Indies have become more powerful opponents in the last eight years during which they have achieved their status as the most successful of the seven test-playing countries under Lloyd's towering influence.

Lloyd, 39, continues to be a major force as both leader and middle order batsman, which West Indies officials acknowledged by successfully persuading him to change his mind about giving up the captaincy last year.

Lloyd has led his country in a world record 63 tests.

Women final delayed

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (R) — Heavy rain forced the postponement of the final of a \$200,000 women's tennis tournament between top-seeded American Chris Evert Lloyd and unseeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany.

"I've dealt with rain delays before," Lloyd said. "I'm from Florida and it rains there all the time, so rain is nothing new to me."

Kohde-Kilsch said: "I can use a day of rest."

Lloyd has beaten the West German in all three of their meetings, the last of which came in the 1983 Canadian Open.

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No strategic value to rebel held port, Nicaragua says

MANAGUA (Agencies) — U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels said they captured a southern port and a 50-kilometre long beachhead but Managua officials and Costa Rican security sources dismissed the area as strategically unimportant.

A 450-man force of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) had seized the port of San Juan Del Norte and were holding a beachhead along Nicaragua's southern coast, according to Costa Rican journalists who visited the area over the weekend.

The journalists work for La Prensa Libre and Diario La Nación in San Jose and Mexico City's Excelsior newspaper.

They said ARDE chief Eden Pastora (nicknamed "Commander Zero") told them in San Juan Del Norte the rebels seized the port early on Friday after three days of fierce fighting and had pushed north along the sparsely-populated coast.

Defence Minister Humberto Ortega declined to confirm Friday that the rebels had taken the port, about 300 kilometres southeast of Managua close to the Costa Rican border.

But Mr. Ortega said San Juan Del Norte had little strategic value, adding the ARDE staged the attack more for publicity than for military purposes.

He said San Juan Del Norte was "a place that has been uninhabited for weeks" which had been defended by just 72 Sandinist soldiers.

Mr. Pastora, a former hero of the Popular Sandinist Revolution he now opposes, said the beachhead would "facilitate the entry of military supplies by the Caribbean Sea and enable us to continue our offensives towards the north and the west."

Sources close to the Costa Rican Security Ministry said, the seizure of the port was of little strategic importance since the rebels already controlled the San Juan River along the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, which has for some time provided ARDE, with a supply route and access to the sea.

But they said it was the first town held by the insurgents during their two-year battle against the leftist government.

"Nicaragua's problem is not in San Juan Del Norte but it is in the manoeuvres by the United States, the dirty war," Mr. Ortega said.

The defence minister was referring to a U.S.-financed campaign aimed at undermining the leftist government, including backing for anti-government rebels and the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Junta co-ordinator Daniel Ortega said on Saturday that the San Juan Del Norte attack was part of the biggest rebel offensive to date,

which involved 5,000 to 6,000 rebels out of a total of 11,000 on the country's borders.

"We can speak of areas of permanent combat," he said.

In Tegucigalpa, a leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN) said rebels had mounted a three-pronged offensive and were holding extensive areas in the northern Nicaraguan province of Jinotega.

Edgar Chamorro said ARDE rebels had joined FDN forces fighting government troops in Chontales province.

U.S. senator protests
WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan said Sunday he is resigning as vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee to protest what he called a breach of trust by President Ronald Reagan's administration over its Central American policy.

In a prepared statement, Sen. Moynihan said his resignation is "the most emphatic way I can express my view that the Senate Committee was not properly briefed on the mining of Nicaraguan harbours with American mines from an American ship."

Sen. Moynihan made his announcement in an interview on the ABC television network's news programme "This Week With David Brinkley." His office later released a statement elaborating on the announcement.

10 killed in Brooklyn shooting

NEW YORK (R) — The bodies of 10 people, mostly children, were Sunday found shot dead in an apartment in the Brooklyn area of New York in what police called the city's biggest mass killing in recent years.

The victims were all shot in the head, police said. The motive for the killings was not immediately known.

A two-year-old girl survived and was released to the local police precinct after being taken to hospital.

Police were unable to identify the sex and ages of the victims pending a forensic investigation.

The bodies were discovered by bakery owner Carmine Rossi, whose store is next-door to the two-family dwelling where the massacre took place.

Mr. Rossi was leaving his bakery for the day when he was accosted by a man rushing out of the building, screaming.

Mr. Rossi went into the building with the man, who said he lived there, and found seven bodies on living room couches and the others in the kitchen.

Reagan reported to have endorsed 'anti-terrorist' reprisal raids

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan has signed a policy directive endorsing the principle of pre-emptive strikes and reprisal raids against "terrorists" abroad and permitting the creation of FBI and CIA paramilitary squads, the Los Angeles Times said Sunday.

The newspaper, quoting U.S. officials in Washington, said Mr. Reagan would ask Congress for new laws including one to permit the payment of rewards as high as \$500,000 for information on "terrorists" at home and abroad.

It said the new policy was prompted by a truck bomb attack that killed 241 U.S. servicemen in Beirut last October.

White House officials declined to comment on the report.

National Security Directive 138, a secret document signed by Mr. Reagan on April 3, ordered 26 U.S. agencies and offices to provide him with options on how to carry out the new policy, the newspaper said.

It said the presidential directive stopped short of authorising the murder of suspected "terrorists."

But it permitted the use of force in other forms including the creation of paramilitary squads of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), the newspaper said.

It said officials of the State and Defence Departments and other agencies had said the directive sought to formalise and coordinate new steps the United States was already taking. According to the paper, these included:

— Intensified intelligence collection at home by the FBI and abroad by the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), a Defence Department group. The DIA was authorised to use intelligence agents for the first time, the paper said.

— Co-ordination of the "counter-terrorist military units" in each of the armed services by a Joint Special Operations Agency under the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is preparing a contingency list of potential "terrorist targets" abroad for quick disruptive actions or reprisal strikes.

— Increased security for a range of potential American targets from diplomats and servicemen overseas to spy satellite ground stations and nuclear warhead storage depots.



Pierre Mauroy

Mauroy seeks clarification from Communists

PARIS (R) — French Socialist Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy Sunday accused his Communist partners in government of undermining the alliance and called for clarification of their attitudes.

Mr. Mauroy's comments in a radio interview highlighted growing Socialist impatience with the Communists, who have four cabinet posts, for their repeated criticism of government plans to restructure major state industries.

"If one regards day by day the attitude of the Communist Party one perceives that officially, the wish to respect government solidarity is effective at ministerial level," the prime minister said.

But by declarations, newspaper articles and positions taken, the Communist Party sees fit to distinguish itself from the government and to strike at the coherence of the (left-wing) majority.

"There must be clarification and there will be clarification... it is indispensable," he added.

The prime minister made a point of saying he and President Francois Mitterrand were discussing the issue but he ruled out any renegotiation of the Communist participation in government.

Sikh leader shot dead in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — A Sikh leader was shot dead in the grounds of the Sikh's holiest shrine the Golden Temple Monday in the latest outbreak of violence in the troubled Indian state of Punjab.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the victim was Malik Singh Bhatia, a senior official of the "Talwandi Group", a faction of the main Sikh political party the Akali Dal.

The killing followed the discovery Monday morning of the decapitated body of Surinder Singh Chinda, a Sikh suspected of killing a prominent extremist near the Golden Temple on Saturday.

PTI said Mr. Bhatia was shot several times as he left a building in the temple complex where the Akali Dal have their headquarters. There were no other immediate details.

The Sikh killing went on as new violence hit India's Punjab state.

Extremists killed a Hindu priest and set ablaze for a second time one of 37 Punjab railway stations burned Sunday in commando-style raids.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the body of Surinder Singh Chinda was found on the outskirts of Amritsar, site of the Sikh's holiest shrine the Golden Temple.

Police sources said the body appeared to have been decapitated by sword, a traditional method of execution for traitors to the Sikh cause. Many fundamentalist Sikhs carry swords at all times.

Police linked Mr. Chinda and an unidentified woman to the killing on Saturday near the Golden Temple of extremist leader Surinder Singh Sodhi, a close associate of militant preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Mr. Bhindranwale's private secretary said in a statement the killing was the start of a campaign by the Akali Dal political party to execute Mr. Bhindranwale and his top followers because of their growing support.

The Akali Dal, which opposes violence in seeking greater religious and political concessions for Sikhs in Punjab, has denied involvement.

Police said growing in-fighting among Sikh factions was a potentially explosive new factor in Punjab violence.

Monday morning's attacks were carried out despite stepped-up security precautions ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Police said three extremists shot the priest in a village 30 kilometres from the Sikh holy city Amritsar, headquarters of a militant campaign for greater religious and political concessions for Punjab, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

In a dawn raid extremists also burned down the Chatoli railway station in eastern Punjab. The station was partially gutted Sunday in the militants' fiery show of strength.

After Sunday's commando-style raids, Mrs. Gandhi ordered more units of the railway protection force into Punjab to counter sabotage.

Mrs. Gandhi has earlier called an emergency meeting of senior cabinet ministers to discuss the situation in Punjab following the wave of well-planned, commando-style raids.

KKK, Nazis acquitted in civil rights case
WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina (R) — An all-white jury acquitted nine members of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and American Nazi Party on charges stemming from a shooting which killed five people and wounded seven.

After 23 hours of deliberation, the jury Sunday found the men not guilty of violating the civil rights of Communist demonstrators during 88 seconds of gunfire on Nov. 3, 1979, during an anti-Klan rally in a black district of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Two Klan defendants were also acquitted after the 14-day trial of conspiring to obstruct justice by stopping the flow of information between their associates and criminal investigators.

Another jury last year acquitted six Klan members and Nazis of "murder and felonious rioting at the Greensboro rally."

The widow of William Sampson, one of the five Communists killed in 1979, said the acquittals would help the KKK, a white supremacist group dating back to the 1860s.

"This is a real go-ahead for the Klan to kill people—black people and activist people," said Dale Sampson, adding that she spoke for all four women widowed in 1979.

U.S. pushes for China nuclear deal
PEKING (R) — The United States began a fresh effort Monday to secure a nuclear co-operation agreement with China before President Reagan's visit later this month.

A team of U.S. officials headed by Richard Keocoedy, ambassador-at-large for nuclear policy, arrived Sunday night and began two days of talks with the Chinese Monday morning, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

The American side is anxious to add some substance to the Reagan visit following the breakdown of talks on a Sino-U.S. investment treaty that was to have been initiated ahead of the president's tour.

The only other significant accord in sight are a double taxation treaty that was initiated by U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan

during talks here last month, and a cultural exchange agreement.

The trip beginning on April 26 is the first by a U.S. president to Peking since Mr. Gerald Ford's visit in 1976. Formal diplomatic relations, were established in 1979.

The nuclear energy pact could clear the way for billions of dollars worth of business for U.S. firms trying to compete against European manufacturers already involved in negotiations for nuclear projects.

The main issue blocking the co-operation agreement is Washington's demand for co-site inspections to approve any Chinese reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from U.S. reactors. The negotiators are seeking guarantees against diversion of atomic reactor fuel for military uses.

Peking has joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India has voiced concern about reports that China is assisting Pakistan's nuclear programme.

China, which became a nuclear power in 1964, is reluctant to allow inspection of its atomic installations.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said this was required by U.S. law and there was little room for compromise. But the American negotiators would be explaining the law more fully to the Chinese side.

Earlier this month, Assistant Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhe said agreement was possible if Washington compromised on its demand to monitor the reuse of reactor fuel.

Howe opens sensitive Peking talks on Hong Kong future
PEKING (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe began sensitive discussions with China Monday on the future of Hong Kong as hopes rose in the colony for an end to more than 18 months of uncertainty.

Some 50 Hong Kong reporters and cameramen joined foreign newsmen packing the conference room at the start of Sir Geoffrey's meeting with Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian at the Chinese State guesthouse in Peking's north-western suburbs.

Mr. Wu told them he believed the talks would go well, adding: "We already have laid a good foundation." He disclosed that the British minister would meet Premier Zhao Ziyang Tuesday.

Asked by a radio reporter what he hoped for from the meetings, Sir Geoffrey gave a crisp "no comment."

The atmosphere appeared business like with few of the polite generalities uttered during photocalls at the secret diplomatic talks on the issue held regularly since September 1982.

Britain is due to hand Hong Kong back to China in 1997.

There were some signs that the two sides were at last ready to lift a corner of the veil of secrecy which has shrouded the dialogue from the start in the interests of "preserving Hong Kong's stability and prosperity."

Both governments included in their teams legal experts and press spokesmen, suggesting that they could be planning to give some sort of progress report to the people most concerned—the 5.3 million people of Hong Kong anxiously waiting for pointers to their future.

There has been speculation this could happen in the colony on Friday, when British officials have said the foreign secretary is to give a press conference.

Monday's talks took place across a green baize-covered table adorned with the British and Chinese flags, and set with 20 teacups and blotters.

Sir Geoffrey was flanked by

Vietnamese overrun Kampuchean camp

BANGKOK (AP) — A Thai army spokesman confirmed Monday that Vietnamese troops occupied a major Kampuchean resistance camp on the Thai-Kampuchean border in an attack Sunday that sent tens of thousands of Kampuchean refugees fleeing, Thai military and international officials were trying to care for more than 75,000 Kampuchean refugees driven over the weekend into Thailand or elsewhere along the border by the Vietnamese offensive against Ampil Camp and other resistance bases.

A senior international aid official said Ampil's 32,000 civilians were evacuated amid Sunday's artillery attack to a site on Thai territory four to five kilometres north of Ampil.

Another senior aid official said, however, that all remained on Kampuchean soil.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross said that at least 42 Kampuchians from Ampil had been admitted to an emergency hospital

near the border by Monday morning.

The official, who requested anonymity, said it was "by far" the largest number of war-wounded Red Cross has treated in the current dry season offensive. He said he had no further reports on casualties.

A U.N. border relief official said the 32,000 inhabitants of Tatum, the headquarters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's forces, were evacuated Saturday to an area in Thailand a few kilometres from the camp. He said reports indicated that the Tatum refugees fled the camp before the artillery barrages, and that there have been no injuries.

An aid official said fighting during the weekend pushed into Thailand some 11,500 refugees from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front camp at Sok Sann along the southern sector of border and the Khmer Rouge camp at Ban Charat, in the northern border zone.

The resistance groups are continuing the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

He said 1,800 refugees from the Khmer Rouge camp of Bor Rai in the southern zone remained on Thai soil after they fled the camp last week.

Ampil, or Bansangae as it is known to the Thais, is about 350 kilometres east of Bangkok. The camp, which by resistance estimates contains about 4,000 guerrilla fighters, is the headquarters of the KPNLF.

Tatum is about 100 kilometres northeast of Ampil and 435 kilometres northeast of Bangkok.

Thai Deputy Army Secretary Col. Anusorn Krisanassarni said in a telephone interview that Ampil was overrun by some 60 Vietnamese troops at 11:30 a.m. Sunday (0430 GMT) following eight hours of intense artillery shelling.

Col. Anusorn said a military intelligence report indicated that the KPNLF forces at Ampil have moved about one to five kilometres away from the camp.

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